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N.O. blitz leads to 521 professions of faith

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 — In one day of door-to-door witnessing of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptists recorded 521 professions of faith before the annual meeting.

"I think it was tremendous," said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "All the people I'm talking with say it was worthwhile."

This year's event attracted 1,334 volunteers compared to 2,025 people who witnessed before the annual meeting in Las Vegas last year. However, the number of professions of faith exceeds the Las Vegas total by 50.

In addition, the New Orleans volunteers contacted 14,011 homes, discovered 2,818 prospects and enrolled 391 people in Sunday School.

This year's totals do not include results from three associations. The director of missions for the associations could not be reached for his report.

Ramsey said he was especially pleased with the participation of 25 National Baptist churches. They recorded 205 professions of faith, and one church surveyed a subdivision to

lay groundwork for a new church.

Throughout southern Louisiana and Mississippi, 113 churches participated in the event. Volunteers from 29 states were matched with local church members to canvas neighborhoods, asking for responses to a religious opinion survey.

The survey asked residents about their religious preference, why American families are under stress and if it is possible to know for certain that a person has eternal life.

Philip Pinckard, pastor of Memorial Church in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans, said he liked using the survey approach.

"It's a very natural way to lead to asking questions about the person's spiritual life," Pinckard said. "We'll use it in the future."

The witnesses were told in a Friday afternoon rally that people in New Orleans are "very religious."

"The people of New Orleans believe most everything we believe, they simply don't know how to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," said Buford Easley, pastor of Williams Boulevard Church in suburban Kenner.

Volunteers found a strong Catholic influence among residents. Fred Oaks, pastor of Quitman Church in

Quitman, Ark., and his wife Linda said they found many people who think to be a Christian "all you have to do is be a good person."

At least two passers-by stopped surveyors to ask what they were doing. A mail carrier, a Jehovah's Witness, said he was surprised to see Baptists knocking on doors.

Another woman stopped Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis to inquire about the activity. Kneeling outside her car and talking through the rolled down window, he led her to accept Christ as Savior.

Not all residents were as eager to listen. Bob Martin, pastor of Calvary Church in Paragould, Ark., said people were usually cordial, but many did not allow the volunteers to ask the survey questions.

Ramsey is already enlisting people for next year's evangelism effort before the convention in Atlanta.

"I'm dreaming of the day when every person who comes to the Southern Baptist Convention has such a desire to win people to Jesus Christ that they come early to do that," he said. "That's when we'll penetrate America with the Gospel."

The witnessing efforts were sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the convention's host state convention.



Out witnessing — A resident of Flower Gate Apartments (left) talks with Joy Martin (center) of Calvary Church, Paragould, Ark., and Mary Pennington (right), an employee of the Louisiana Convention who also lives in Flower Gate Apartments. The two Southern Baptist women participated in the SBC's door-to-door witnessing effort June 9 in New Orleans. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)



Parade of flags — A parade of state flags was part of the Home Mission Board presentation, June 12, as President Larry Lewis shared his annual report with messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention. (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy)

Musical will premiere at Jericho festivals

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A new musical will be premiered at the Jericho '90 Southern Baptist mission festivals this summer at the Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers.

The festivals, which began last year as an experiment in home and foreign missions education, also will feature for the first time an open forum of the chief executives of five Southern Baptist agencies sponsoring the events and services for commissioning and appointing new missionaries.

The musical, called "Jericho," emphasizes that God has worked throughout history to bring down barriers that isolate people from each other and from God, said Dennis Allen, who wrote the musical with his wife, Nan. Both are Southern Baptist composers. He is employed by the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. "Jericho" is produced under the Sunday School Board's Genevox label.

The theme of walls tumbling down is one of the main points stressed during the week-long festivals, which are designed to confront participants of all ages with the sights, sounds, and challenges of home and foreign missions.

Jericho '90, scheduled June 30-July

6 at Ridgecrest and July 21-27 at Glorieta, also is designed to make participants ask probing questions about missions and their role in it as Southern Baptists point toward their Bold Mission Thrust evangelistic/missions campaign goals for the year 2000 and beyond.

Last year's Jericho '89 was the first time the five Southern Baptist agencies co-sponsored a mission conference. The sponsors — the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board — developed Jericho to teach missions in new ways to new audiences.

Originally planned as a two-year pilot project, Jericho is expected to continue into the 1990s while planners evaluate its effectiveness.

The open forum, with the five agency heads at both conference centers, will be styled after a town meeting and allow the audience to talk to them about Southern Baptist life.

People interested in participating in Jericho '90 may register at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center by calling (704) 669-8022 or at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center by calling (505) 757-6161.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A somber convention

A leading "moderate" stopped by the press room on the day of the Southern Baptist Convention last week to greet a colleague. "Goodbye," he said. "I won't be back."

As it was with a great many of the "moderate" sympathizers. They were devastated by the failure once again to get enough of their supporters to the convention to win the election of their candidate.

It was not a joyous convention. There were few smiles on either side; and, among the "moderates," there were many tears.

Indeed, it could be that the "moderates" felt that if they couldn't win it this year, when could it be done?

There was a somber note to the "conservative" camp as those supporters realized at what price their victory had been won.

It was the third largest convention in history with 38,478 messengers milling around in the relatively small area of the mall between the Superdome and the Hyatt Hotel. Supporters of each faction were wary as they moved around the arena and the shopping area because there were no distinguishing marks to tell side from side. One seldom spoke to strangers. And yet both of the sides were strong, as they have been for 11 years, with about 22,000 on one side and about 16,000 on the other.

So there was no atmosphere of the vanquished nursing their wounds in a secluded corner. Victors and vanquished were everywhere and in sizeable strength.

But there were definitely two camps, as in the last 11 years, as was demonstrated by the votes as the balloting on issues and candidates continued through two days. The

percentages stayed about the same although the numbers of voters diminished as the votes continued. Both sides had come to vote on the president, and then they drifted away. By Thursday there were not enough messengers in attendance to carry on the scheduled business.

The convention was not initiated in order to elect a president. There would not have been a need for a president if a convention had not been organized. The purpose of the convention is to carry out Southern Baptists' efforts in missions and evangelism. Yet missions and evangelism have become side issues as the major concentration of energy has begun to be expended on the election of a president and other such non-missions concerns as how to address religious liberty issues in the nation's capital.

It is sad that the major emphasis of the convention is on who will be president instead of on the work of the convention. It is sad that the recording secretary of the convention, Martin Bradley, who had held the position for 12 years, would be defeated because he exercised his privilege as a member of the SBC Executive Committee. Bradley served on the Executive Committee because of his position with the convention, but his Executive Committee membership had no bearing on his convention duties. Yet he was defeated because of his conviction that he should be allowed to function as an Executive Committee member.

Bradley was defeated by David Atchison of Nashville, who was nominated by Stan Coffey of Amarillo, Texas, in order, Coffey said, to broaden the involvement. Atchison is the son of Joe Atchison of Arkansas,

who is a member of the Christian Life Commission and has served as chairman of that group.

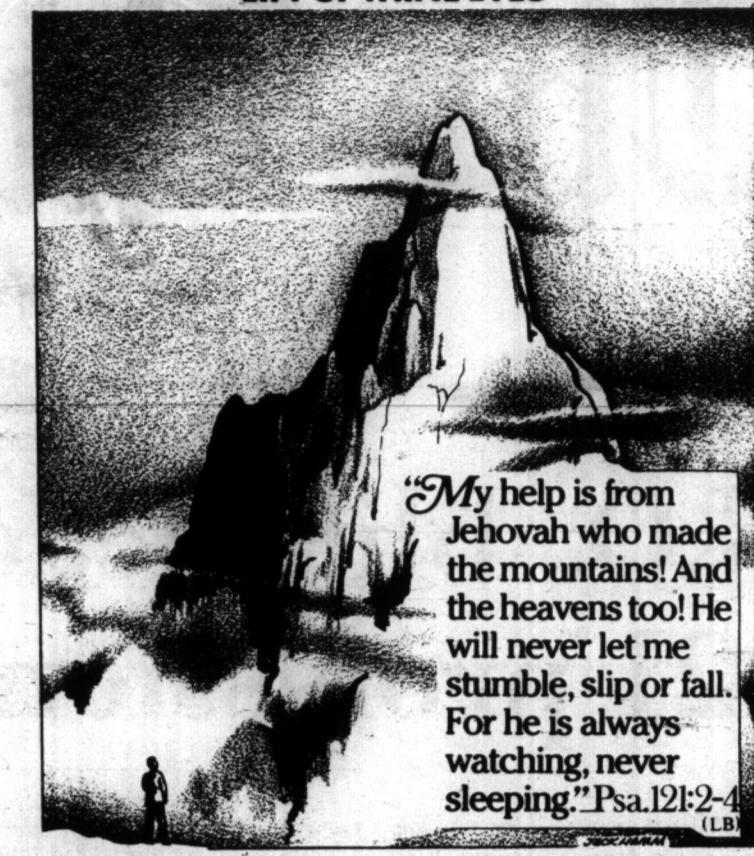
During the organization meeting of the SBC Executive Committee on Wednesday afternoon, T. C. Pinckney of Virginia, a "conservative" adherent, asked for prayer for those of the "moderate" camp who had experienced painful experiences during the convention.

"Moderates" declared that the convention was painful for them, and some were talking about an alternate experience for convention fellowship. That, however, would not be the answer.

The 22,000 "conservatives" do not constitute the convention. Neither do the 16,000 "moderates." There are almost 15 million Southern Baptists; and the labels that are used are political rather than theological. There is no way of determining how many sympathizers either side can count.

The tactic of the "conservatives" to call the "moderates" liberals is a political effort to brand them as something they are not, and "moderates" fits only because those in that group call for moderation in handling convention affairs. As the new president, Morris Chapman, pointed out, at least 90 percent of Southern Baptists are conservative.

The convention's work is determined by the 38,000 to 40,000 who attend the conventions, but they make up an infinitesimal portion of the totality of Southern Baptists. Neither side can claim confidently that it represents Southern Baptists. If the truth were known, it is likely that neither side does; and most Southern Baptists probably wish that both sides would quit



LIFT UP THINE EYES

"My help is from Jehovah who made the mountains! And the heavens too! He will never let me stumble, slip or fall. For he is always watching, never sleeping." Psa.121:2-4

the wrangling and figure out a way to get along together.

Somehow this most devastating and saddest of all conventions should be used to mark the beginning of a determination to find a way of getting together. It would take concessions on the part of both sides.

President Chapman has declared such an effort is to be his top priority. Let's pray that he is successful. And let's all help him as best we can rather than resisting any efforts toward healing simply because the president was elected by the "conservative" side.

Then maybe we can get out of this mess. The Lord will help us if we ask him.

No, the "moderates" should not bolt the convention. Perhaps, Habakkuk set the standard: "I will stand on my watchtower, and take up my post on my battlements, watching to see what he will say to me, what answer he will make to my complaints." Hak. 2:1 (Jerusalem Bible).

both loved traveling, missions, and each other. They were married in 1979.

During the last 10 years, their mission mindedness has taken them all over the world. They spent three weeks in Kenya, East Africa, teaching at the Extension Department of the Baptist Theological Seminary. On two occasions they visited Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Mississippi had a Bold Mission Thrust partnership with these countries. Later, mother returned there with 20 WMU women. They helped her teach *The Gifted Woman I Am*, a book she had written earlier. These women spoke in more than 100 churches in this area.

Earl and mother both led weekend mission conferences in Bangalore, India, at our Baptist Hospital and in Monrovia, Liberia. Recently, they spent 10 days in Japan with 40 teams from Mississippi.

Earl made his retirement official on August 15, 1989, but neither mother nor Earl know the meaning of retirement. Their desire to serve as missionaries on a foreign mission field was finally realized. On January 3,

1990, Dr. and Mrs. Earl Kelly left for Baguio in the Philippines. They are volunteer missionaries at our Philippine Baptist Seminary. This seminary in Baguio serves six other countries: Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. Earl will be able to use his degree from Southern Seminary in church history for the first time. Mother will also be teaching in the seminary and traveling as needed among the six other countries, counseling and leading conferences. They will be gone 18 months.

There is nothing wrong with returning longingly to closed doors. My mother's life has come full circle again, and the once closed door has been unlocked.

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." Proverbs 8:34.

We're proud of you, mom!

Becky, Robin, and Paige are the daughters of Marjorie Kelly. Their brother, the fourth child, died tragically in an automobile accident.

Guest opinion . . .

My mother, the missionary

By Robin Riggs

Hattiesburg, Mississippi, provided a wonderful place to live.

As the four of us grew and matured in Hattiesburg, missions was constantly a part of our lives. Mother spoke in small Baptist churches, especially around Christmas time. Even now I can recall her speech and her slides. Becky and I would parade to the front of the church and sing Hebrew and Arabic songs. Mother's face would glow as she talked of the work in Israel and the overwhelming need for foreign missionaries.

As director of public relations and assistant professor of religion at William Carey, mother had an ongoing impact on countless young lives. She had contact with students who did go as foreign missionaries. Our house was always a home away from home for MK's, especially those from the Middle East.

Mother wrote to earn extra money and also to encourage missions. She never had typing lessons but pecked away night after night with two

fingers. Mother wrote for numerous Baptist magazines and also authored two foreign mission study books for children.

During the summer months mother became a guest missionary speaker at camps. As always, the four of us came along as part of the package. As we became older, mother began to lead tours abroad. One tour traveled to the Baptist World Youth Congress and to several mission points in the Middle East. Mother always included her four kids. Our young lives were filled with excitement, adventure, and missions.

One by one we left for college and careers. We worried about mother. We never wanted her to be alone—except she never was alone. In 1978, at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, mother met Dr. Earl Kelly. He was the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Dr. Kelly was a widower with three children of his own. They had, remarkably, the same interests. They

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Family support — Morris Chapman (second from right) is surrounded by family members as he addresses the press corps during a presidential news conference, June 12. They are (from left) Chapman's son Chris, his daughter Stephanie and her fiance, his brother Ron (behind Chapman), and his wife Jodi. Chapman is a native of Kosciusko. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

Chapman said he aims to enhance cooperative spirit

By Ken Camp & Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 — Whether the inerrancy issue is settled in the Southern Baptist Convention depends upon the response of the 42 percent of messengers who voted against Morris Chapman, the newly elected president said.

Chapman held a news conference in the Louisiana Superdome the day of his election as president of the 14.8-million member denomination.

Chapman, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in Atlanta, in balloting on the opening day of the denomination's annual meeting.

In nominating Chapman, Houston pastor John Bisagno said Chapman's election would settle the inerrancy issue "once and forever."

However, after the election Chapman said that decision rests with the 42 percent of messengers who voted against him. He noted that outgoing SBC president Jerry Vines said last year the inerrancy issue had been settled.

"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled," Chapman said. "Whether or not the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

He underscored that the split isn't as great as the 60-40 vote indicated. At least 90 percent of Southern Baptists adhere to inerrancy, he maintained.

Asked whether the other 10 percent should leave the convention, Chapman said he couldn't say. "I wouldn't presume to speak for those who hold different theological beliefs. The choice would have to be made by those persons."

In a prepared opening statement to the news conference, Chapman said he wanted to "enhance the cooperative spirit among Southern Baptists while standing steadfastly for biblical truth."

Looking back at the past 12 years, Chapman said Southern Baptists "have been sending signals to leaders of our agencies and institutions that as to doctrinal integrity we need to come home to the faith of our fathers."

"Southern Baptists are a people of the Book. We must perpetuate that belief through the institutional life of our beloved convention," he said.

Chapman said during the next year he wants to meet with the presidents

of every SBC agency and institution "to listen to their heartbeat and let them hear mine."

"For peace and harmony to be effective throughout the rank and file, elected officials and paid personnel must gain a better understanding of each other," he said. "I think we've had too many press conferences and not enough personal conferences."

In meeting with those presidents, Chapman said he would emphasize his desire to "keep theological parameters in place and remove any political parameters."

He affirmed the 1987 Peace Committee report. His wife, Jodi, who was seated beside him at the news conference, served on the Peace Committee.

The Peace Committee report was adopted overwhelmingly. It is more of a convention statement than a committee statement," Chapman said.

"The Peace Committee has done a great thing for all Southern Baptists for at least two reasons: they've helped describe what we meant all along by infallibility and inerrancy and asked us to go beyond perceived political parameters."

He declared he wants to "be a part of opening communication between trustees and administration." He affirmed trustees as the appropriate people to deal with questions raised about particular agencies and institutions.

Chapman said he does not favor "a wholesale housecleaning of any kind" in those institutions.

Asked about his own appointments to the committee on committees, Chapman said, "My commitment in the appointive process is to appoint those persons who believe in the perpetuation of allegiance to the perfect Word of God and those who believe within the parameters of the Peace Committee report."

Reporters asked Chapman about dissension among his own congregation and messengers to the convention from that church. During the first day of the convention, at least one messenger from Chapman's church spoke against issues favored by the conservative leadership.

"The vast majority of my church and those attending the convention from my church have a great love for their pastor and great support for their pastor," Chapman replied.

Mark Wingfield is on the staff of HMB. Ken Camp is in the Texas Baptist PR Dept.

The Second Front Page

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Conservatives dominate SBC annual meeting

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — With conservative forces capturing almost all major elective offices, messengers to the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention moved their religious liberty function closer within the denominational umbrella, approved a basic operating budget of \$137,332,523, and took positions on child pornography and environmental stewardship.

The convention attracted 38,478 messengers, making it the third-largest in the 145-year history of the body, eclipsed only by 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986.

However, the messengers left so rapidly after the elections and mission reports that business on the final day was eliminated. Leaders couldn't find the 9,614 messengers, 25 percent of registration, minimum needed to do business.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and a Mississippian won the presidency of the 14.9-million-membership denomination by defeating Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta, 21,471 to 15,753.

Joining the conservative standard bearer were Douglas Knapp, retired foreign missionary of Gainesville, Fla., as first vice president, and Fred Lowery, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La., second vice president.

Knapp won over Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, 16,348 to 10,688, and Lowery over two laymen, garnering 60 percent of the vote on the first ballot. They were Raymond Boswell of Shreveport and Steve Tonner of Huntsville, Ala.

Conservative candidate David Atchison of Nashville unseated Recording Secretary Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had held the post for 12 years.

However, Lee Porter of Nashville won a 13th term as registration secretary by overwhelming Bob Mowry, a Nashville pastor, 13,242 to 5,048.

In a post election news conference, Chapman said the question of whether the biblical inerrancy issue is settled in the convention depends upon the 42 percent of the messengers who voted against him.

"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled. Whether the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

Meanwhile, Vestal appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the denomination.

Upon recommendation of the convention's Executive Committee, the messengers transferred the primary religious liberty function from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to the Christian Life Commission, allowing the social action agen-

cy to address religious liberty issues as well as Christian social ethics.

At the same time, the messengers approved a budget which reduced the allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee by \$341,796, or 87 percent, and increased the allocation to the CLC by 40 percent, or \$365,328.

Two efforts by messengers to restore the cut failed.

Historically, the Baptist Joint Committee, a First Amendment/religious liberty organization representing nine Baptist bodies in Washington, has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists for 53 years.

However, the Joint Committee has been a center of controversy in the convention's 11-year-old political/theological debate on such matters as school prayer and the relationship of religious liberty to moral and social concerns.

In a news conference James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee and a Southern Baptist, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

Richard Land, executive director of the CLC, said the messengers' action would greatly strengthen Southern Baptists' influence in Washington.

In contrast to other business, messengers approved without debate resolutions urging laws against the possession of child pornography and calling Southern Baptists to environmental stewardship.

The resolution on possession of child pornography urged Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The environment resolution encouraged Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups to make an

environmentally responsible ethic a part of their lifestyle and evangelistic witness.

Messengers heard reports from 20 of their agencies which evoked responses ranging from questions to challenge and inspiration.

Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, was asked by a messenger to explain a remark labeling a convention meeting satanic.

Dilday said he had not referred to the SBC meeting but to methodology used during the past 12 years in the denominational controversy.

"The comment I made was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years — the crass, secular, political methodology — does have satanic, evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed." He added, "I did indicate that if Satan were interested in destroying the work of an evangelistic body such as this, the outcome we have seen in these 12 years would indeed be the kind of quality we would see in that intervention."

Following the report of Southern Seminary, President Roy Honeycutt of Louisville, Ky., was asked if recent charges against him had been laid to rest by the recently dismantled convention Peace Committee.

Honeycutt said he could not speak for the Peace Committee, a group formed to study theological issues, but his trustees had voted 41-11 four years ago stating there were no charges worthy of faculty dismissal in the Peace Committee's concerns.

Honeycutt also figured in a related motion calling for removal of seminary trustee Jerry Johnson, an Aurora, Colo., pastor, for his 16-page article criticizing the seminary president and five professors concerning their theology.

(Continued on page 8)



New SBC officers — Officers elected by messengers to serve Southern Baptists during the coming year are Morris Chapman (center), president, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas; Douglas Knapp (right), first vice president, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla.; and Fred Lowery (left), second vice president, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

Woman's Missionary Union

"Missions is to Southern Baptists what the heart is to the human body"

By Scott Collins & Bob Stanley

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Missions is to Southern Baptists what the heart is to the human body, about 4,000 members of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union were told at their annual convention June 10-11 in New Orleans.

To illustrate the convention theme, "Hearts of One Accord," the WMU called on Joann Goatcher, a physician and former missionary to Thailand, to do its theme interpretation.

"The heartbeat for missions must begin at home and flow out to a lost

nation and world," Goatcher said. "The first place it can be blocked is right in our own hearts and our own churches. It will not go past the church door if there is unforgiveness, a closed hand and a hardened heart."

The women's auxiliary marked its 102nd year by welcoming its new executive director, Dellanna O'Brien, and unanimously re-electing Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., to her fifth term as president. Both are former missionaries. Pattie Dent of Clinton, Miss., also was re-elected to

a fifth term as recording secretary. Speakers during the two-day meeting mingled cautious optimism with warnings about possible trouble ahead for the missions support base which WMU represents in Southern Baptists' 37,700 churches.

Several urged Southern Baptists to work harder to make unity a reality in the strife-torn Southern Baptist Convention.

Monte Clendenning, conference coordinator for the World Missions/Evangelism Center at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas urged "going back to the basics" in missions education, but "being flexible enough to look closely at our methods and be willing to alter them if by change we can better involve our people for world evangelization."

Earlier, Executive Director O'Brien emphasized the importance of "keeping missions education alive in the hearts of our children. The hope of our convention is in the commitment of its young people."

An author from another denomination, Ruth Tucker of Grand Rapids, Mich., underscored the need for accord. She urged Southern Baptists to "go forward to serve him (Jesus) and seek to avoid the disharmony and disunity that the world would emphasize."

The closing speaker of the WMU meeting, Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., told participants Baptists must quit "deceiving themselves" by allowing their culture to interpret Chris-

tianity, rather than allowing their Christianity to guide culture. Parks is president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We have assumed some things about Christianity," Parks said. "We have assumed that Christianity is a comfortable lifestyle."

If Baptists will correct the cultural misconceptions and focus on the reasons for missions "we will have hearts of one accord," he added.

Scott Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.

Bob Stanley is on the staff of FMB.

James Drane, minister, dies

James E. Drane, 72, retired Baptist minister, died June 14. Services were held at Ackerman Church, with burial in Enon Cemetery.

He served as director of missions for Choctaw-Webster Association from 1970 until 1987 when he retired. Prior to that he served Mathiston, Concord, Friendship, French Camp, Philadelphia churches, among others.

He was educated at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Delma; two daughters: Dianne Upton, Clinton; Mary Sharp, Bridge City, Texas; three sons: Butch Drane, Cartersville, Ga.; Tim Drane, Jennings, La.; and Bernie Drane, Bridge City, Texas.

The WMU board also set mission offering goals. The 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1991 is \$88 million. This represents a \$2 million increase over the 1990 foreign missions offering goal.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1992 is \$41 million. This goal reflects no increase over the 1991 home missions offering goal.



Warm handshake — Dellanna O'Brien (left), executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, warmly greets WMU members as they enter the New Orleans Convention Center for the auxiliary's annual meeting, June 10-11. (SBC photo by Clay Allison)

Vestal: "defeated but not demoralized"

By Jim Newton

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Saying he was defeated but not demoralized, Daniel Vestal appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, lost the election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention to Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, by a 58-42 percent margin, June 12.

Vestal told about 700 persons attending a June 13 breakfast sponsored by "Baptists Committed to the SBC" about his personal reactions to the election, possible scenarios for the future of the convention, and appeals to those who have been involved in the 12-year struggle within the convention.

"Now is not the time to despair," Vestal said. "Now is the time to fill your life with hope-filled tasks."

He urged the Executive Committee of Baptists Committed to provide a forum, perhaps a retreat for invited participants open to the press, for formal dialogue on the future of the SBC.

It was one of seven appeals Vestal issued during his first public appearance following the election. He issued the following specific appeals:

— To Morris Chapman and the presidents of the SBC for the past 12 years who now control the denomination, asking them to "broaden the tent of involvement" in the SBC as they have suggested publicly.

— To pastors of prominent SBC

churches such as John Bisagno of Houston, Joel Gregory of Fort Worth, Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla.; Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., and others asking that they live up to their promise "of a historic new day" in the SBC.

— To the trustees of SBC agencies, urging them to affirm, trust and support denominational leaders and stop embarrassing publicly "these good and godly men."

— To those who voted for Chapman, asking them "to accept the rest of us as brothers and sisters and stop accusing us and implying we do not believe the Bible just because we don't agree on interpretation of Scripture or support your political movement."

— To those who voted for him (Vestal), appealing for them to practice Christian charity, and focus their attention on a Sovereign God and on the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

— To all Southern Baptists, pleading for them "to let the love of Jesus Christ fill our hearts so that it overflows to other people."

Vestal, who was greeted with three standing ovations during the breakfast, confessed he did not expect the kind of outcome in the election the previous day. Vestal received only 15,753 votes (42 percent) compared to Chapman's 21,471 (58 percent).

Vestal said he could offer no reason or explanation for the wide vote margin, even though he had questioned the reason why all day and all night.

Vestal said the election was not about believing the Bible as the infallible Word of God. "The election yesterday was about the future — whether we will be a united convention that recaptures a vision for cooperative missions and evangelism.

"That vision failed," Vestal said. Even though they failed in the election, and in the appeal for the convention to refocus its attention on missions and evangelism, Vestal said he and those who supported him have done "what is right."

Vestal said he and others involved in "Baptists Committed" have sought to reach out for peace, reconciliation, openness, fairness, trust and freedom. "We have called for a return to the priesthood of all believers, for congregational polity, for cooperative missions, for religious liberty, and separation for church and state, for unity in diversity . . ."

The key question now is, "Where do we go from here?" Vestal offered five possible scenarios for the future:

1. The present leadership could moderate enough to bring us back together by balancing the appointments to SBC committees and boards.

2. The present SBC leadership could maintain "its present rigid posture" and some churches would leave the SBC and affiliate with American Baptist Churches and/or the Southern Baptist Alliance.

3. Southern Baptists might return to a "societal" approach creating mission societies that could receive and

distribute funds to mission causes.

4. New organizations might develop to provide continuing educational and political involvement.

5. State conventions might secede from the SBC or change the way in which they support national agencies through the Cooperative Program budget.

Vestal stressed he was not advocating any of the five scenarios, but only echoing ideas he had heard in recent months.

Each individual Baptist must decide for himself or herself what the future holds. "No pope, no presbytery, no president, and no judge can tell us what to do," he said.

"Each of us under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit must follow the dictates of our conscience. Don't look to me to tell you what to do — look instead to God."

Vestal said each Baptist church and congregation must also decide for itself about the future. "This is the Baptist way."

Jimmy R. Allen, of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of Baptists Committed, urged the 700 attending the breakfast to return home and organize effectively on the state convention level.

"Meanwhile, the battle moves home to your state convention," Allen said. "You may think the battle is at Southern Seminary, but it is also at your university and your alma mater," said Allen, president of Faith and Family Communication Ministries.

Jim Newton is on the staff of HMB.

WMU, SBC approves record budget

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union approved a record \$12.5 million budget, seven new staff positions and reorganization plans for its program division June 11.

The board of the women's auxiliary also set goals for the 1991 and 1992 missions offerings.

The board adopted a budget of \$12,582,676 for 1990-91. The new budget represents an almost 10 percent increase from the current budget of \$11.4 million. The budget increase will pay primarily for new staff positions and the renovation required to provide office space for them, said board officials.

Seven new staff positions were approved — photographer, financial secretary and five professional and support personnel for editorial and field servicing work.

The board also approved a reorganization of the Missions Program System, the division charged with the responsibility for field servicing, publications and language work.

Under the reorganization, three new sections will replace the current Publications Section and Interpretation Section. The new sections are the Age-Level Involvement Section, the Churchwide Involvement Section and the Associational Relations Unit.

Staff members who work with a particular target audience, such as children or the entire church, will be more closely grouped together.

The WMU board also set mission offering goals. The 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1991 is \$88 million. This represents a \$2 million increase over the 1990 foreign missions offering goal.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1992 is \$41 million. This goal reflects no increase over the 1991 home missions offering goal.

When we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.

— Henri J. M. Nouwen.

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Pastors hear defense of Bible's veracity

By Jim Lowry & Tim Nicholas

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Truth, adversity and defense of the veracity of the Word of God drew the attention of speakers at the 1990 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in New Orleans.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., told the pastors: "It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error."

"Unity is a wonderful thing, good and pleasant. But beloved, it must be unity of the spirit."

Unity, yes — but unification at the price of peace, absolutely not. We have some today who would jettison truth on the altar of cooperation."

Charles Stanley said pastors ask how long they have to live in adversity. "Until God is finished with his purpose with you," he said, adding that a preacher of the Gospel has no privilege to "walk away and still be obedient to God."

He added: "There is something worse than being in a bad situation.

That's being out of the will of God in a good situation."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston, urged Southern Baptist pastors to defend the veracity of the Word of God and "hold the line when you can." He added, "There is no way to overstate the disdain God has for the person who tampers with the integrity of the Word of God."

John McArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., spoke on being a "man of God." He said that a man of God is known by what he flees from, citing greed and all that goes with it. "No man who prostitutes the Word of God for personal gain is a man of God," he said.

Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., warned the audience to "watch out for cut and dried theologies" which say that adversity is caused by unconfessed sin. "We know it's not true."

Bailey Smith of Atlanta said pastors need to preach that they find no fault in the miracle of Jesus, birth, the ma-

jesty of the cross, the magnificence of his resurrection and the mightiness of his return.

Morris Chapman, newly elected SBC president, spoke to the Pastors' Conference on the topic of John 3:16. "We live in a world in bondage to a personal devil," he said. "And the time is running out. The whole world needs to hear the message of John 3:16."

Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said that God's love is longer than the longest night of agony, an everlasting love. "God gave us his Son in vicarious death," he said.

In a business session, the pastors elected Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga., as their 1990-91 president; Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president; and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer.

Tim Nicholas is director of Communication, MBCB, Jim Lowry writes for BSSB.



Pastors' Conference Officers — Officers elected during a June 11 business session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are (from left) Ruffin Snow, vice president, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla.; Richard Lee, president, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga.; and David Hankins, secretary-treasurer, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La. (SBC photo by Dutch Bickley.)

Parks' address clears air with trustees

By Robert O'Brien

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — An air-clearing address by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks ended in prayer rather than confrontation during a meeting of the board's trustees June 9 in New Orleans.

Trustee chairman William Hancock of Louisville, Ky., called staff and trustees to prayer after Parks spoke frankly about ill will he felt had arisen among some trustees following an open letter he wrote May 15 to Southern Baptists.

The letter urged Baptists to rise above their continuing controversy or risk losing opportunities to reach 3.5 billion people for Christ worldwide.

It said the controversy was eroding missionary support and appointments, taking the focus off missions and creating an image of Southern Baptists as a people of controversy rather than evangelism and missions.

Trustees, both openly and behind the scenes, had questioned the conclusions and timing of Parks' letter, written about a month before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome.

In his address, Parks did not change his view that the 11-year-old controversy is damaging missions.

But he sought to give trustees insights into his lifelong commitment to

the Bible and missions, clear up misunderstandings, and remove animosity.

"I would plead that somehow we could resolve this 'something against me' kind of feeling," he said. "I believe it is biblical. I believe it is necessary for the Spirit of God to move among us and to bring us together."

Before trustees and staff prayed in groups all over the room for about 10 minutes, Hancock urged all who held animosity toward another to reconcile it "before this day is done."

Asked later if Parks' address and the prayer session ended rumored trustee action on Parks' letter, Hancock said, "As far as I'm concerned, it's history. I've been praying the Lord would give us the wisdom to bring a positive response rather than reaction."

Parks' address directly responded to views expressed by some trustees that his letter was political, that it seemed to blame them for the crisis in missions, and that it seemed to indicate he placed missions ahead of biblical teaching and correct doctrine.

He assured trustees he did not say and did not mean that the trustee board itself was to blame for the problems. "That has never been in my heart, and I want you to accept that and believe that," he said.

As for politics, Parks said: "If I'd wanted to be political I would have done a much better job than that. I was not trying to be political. I was trying to say to Southern Baptists that missions, in my estimation, is hurting. And every time we get together and irresponsibly tear at each other until our image is again negative to the world, this hurts our witness again. And somehow, some way, Southern Baptists, let's quit doing that. That's what I'm trying to say."

Parks told trustees of his personal spiritual development, noting: "I'm putting my heart out here and letting you look at it."

He outlined his call to missions and said it has been rooted in Scripture since he was 12 years old. Everything the Foreign Mission Board does, he said, "is biblically based." The board's main purpose "is evangelism that

results in churches" and it seeks missionaries committed to the Bible and evangelism, he said.

"I am as aware and committed as anyone among Southern Baptists to the fact that you cannot have strong evangelism and missions without sound biblical doctrine," he said. "Make no mistake about that. That's who I am."

But he warned that Southern Baptists must maintain both strong biblical belief and the cooperative missions approach which was the reason for the formation of the SBC in 1845.

Parks said many other Baptist bodies have sound doctrine but no commitment to a cooperative world missions program. "There are 40 Baptist denominations in the United States today. Only one of them is committed to a cooperative mission the way we as Southern Baptists are . . . That's us. We're the only one," he said.

"I'm coming today to say solid biblical belief and strong commitment to missions are both essential if we are going to continue to be who we have been. We cannot have only one. We must have both."

Parks said that he and board staff, missionaries, and trustees are all responsible for Southern Baptists knowing those facts. Southern Baptists, he said, "have entrusted us with a sacred trust, a holy trust" of foreign missions. "And we must not damage, weaken or change directions of that cause. For, if we do, Southern Baptists are irreparably damaged."

Parks noted that some trustees felt "I was saying that everything that is wrong in the world and in foreign missions is because of the controversy."

That's not so at all. I did say, and I believe very, very deeply that the controversy is hurting missions. I think it's hurting a lot of other things.

"I say that as a description of what I see happening rather than as a judgment on what I see happening," Parks continued.

He cited examples from his own experience which he said indicate that the controversy is undercutting missionary appointments and giving to

missions. "I'm well aware there are other factors" that affect those things, he explained. "But 'a' factor — not 'the' factor, not the only factor — but a factor of significance in my judgment is that the controversy is hurting us in our mission support (and) in the number of missionaries coming at the very time of our greatest opportunity."

Parks also cited input from missionaries which indicate Southern Baptists are becoming known overseas as a people who fight. He quoted a missionary who wrote: "I didn't see how I could do anything about the controversy. I've tried to ignore it, but it makes me angry that what's going on there is making it harder to share the Gospel here."

"Somehow, some way," Parks said, "we must deal with our differences in a Christian way that will not say to the world these who are telling us that God loves us don't even love each other."

At a dinner honoring trustees completing service, Parks and C. Mark Corts, immediate past trustee chairman, joined arms in a gesture of friendship. Corts, who had responded to Parks' open letter to Southern Baptists with one of his own, said he wanted to "reaffirm to all of you my love and appreciation for Keith Parks."

Parks, who presented the Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor with a plaque for 10 years of service on the board, praised Corts for his cooperative spirit and hard work on behalf of missions.

Both appeared to be reassuring trustees and others there was nothing personal about differences expressed in the two open letters. Corts' letter questioned some of Parks' conclusions and the timing of his letter.

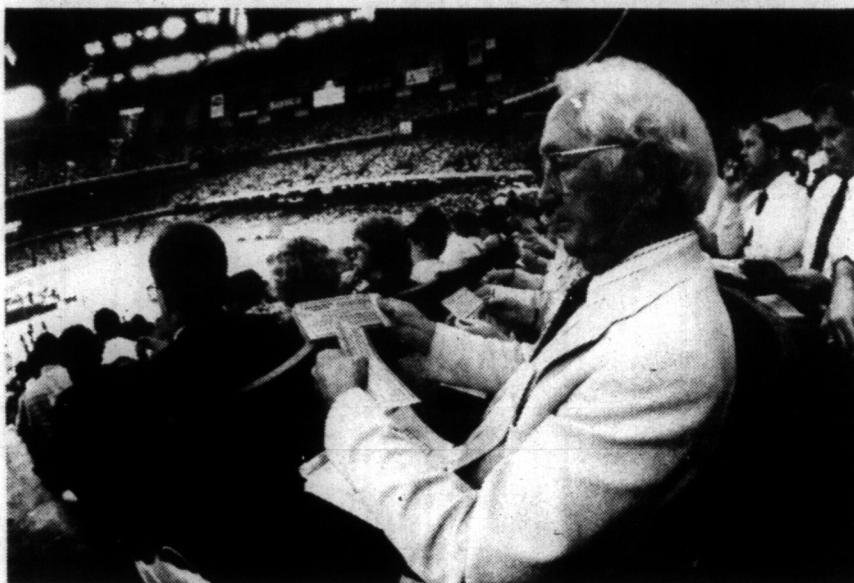
In farewell comments, Corts urged both trustees and staff to overcome suspicion by learning to "put yourself in other people's shoes," focus on the priority of winning the world to Christ, and share openly their feelings and convictions.

"Ultimately," Corts said, "when you've done all you can do, you just have to put it in God's hands."

Robert O'Brien writes for FMB.



Barry McCarty (left), parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention, is shown with SBC president Jerry Vines as Philip Griffin leads a hymn in the New Orleans Superdome. Griffin is minister of music at Highland Church, Laurel.



Ballot Vote — Leroy Jones, messenger from First Church, Alford, Texas, casts his vote in the Southern Baptist Convention presidential election, June 12. More than 37,000 messengers voted during the election. (SBC photo by Van Payne)

More missionaries leave Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — Six more Southern Baptist missionaries left Liberia June 10 as Liberian religious leaders called for peace between battling government and rebel leaders.

The missionaries flew from the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on one of several U.S. Embassy-chartered flights.

The six missionaries are Robert and Pat Bellinger of Carbondale, Ill.; Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky.; and Fred and Mary Lou Levrets of Abilene, Texas. The Bellingers and the Parks planned to temporarily return to the United States. The Levretses planned to travel on to Nigeria. More than 50 Southern Baptist missionaries were in Liberia in early May, before the rebel offensive gained momentum. They hope to return when the fighting ends.

Six Southern Baptist missionaries remained in Liberia June 11 in towns outside Monrovia. They are Ed Laughridge of Rock Hill, S.C., who remained in Mano River; Kenneth Nicholson of Magdalena, N.M., and

Joyce Nicholson of Seaside Calif., in Voinjama; and Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., and Gwen Wilkinson of Ardmore, Tenn., also in Voinjama.

Liberian religious leaders and government officials said the rebels of the National Patriotic Front have agreed to peace talks, according to press reports. The talks could begin in mid-June in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. The Liberian Council of Churches, made up of Christian and Muslim leaders, would mediate the talks. Levee Moulton, president of the Liberian Baptist Convention, is a member of the church council calling for peace.

Religious leaders hoped the peace talks would end the fighting, which began last December when rebel troops led by Charles Taylor, a former civil servant accused of embezzlement, invaded Liberia's Nimba County from Ivory Coast. The fighting has killed more than 1,000 civilians and forced more than 200,000 people to flee to neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast.

Last year Southern Baptist chaplains conducted 70,613 worship services, led 38,718 Bible classes, taught 11,135 Sunday School classes,

and had 408 Vacation Bible Schools. They also made 2.2 million personal visits and held 434,776 formal counseling sessions.

FMB okay's work with Czechoslovakia

By Bob Stanley

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Responding to new opportunities in Eastern Europe, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted June 9 to establish fraternal relationships with Soviet Baptists and authorized opening of work in Czechoslovakia.

The board, meeting on the Tulane University campus just before the annual Southern Baptist Convention, approved the transfer of George and Veda Rae Lozuk from South America to become fraternal representatives to the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in Moscow. The Lozeks, along with six couples being sought to work in Czechoslovakia, are among 88 new, full-time workers the board is seeking to reinforce its present force of 10 now assigned to Eastern Europe ministries.

Harriet Gilbert of St. Simons Island, Ga., vice chairman of the board's Europe, Middle East and

North Africa committee, said the vote was especially meaningful to her because her own son-in-law, Petr Macek, a Czech, was pastor of a Czech Baptist church for 17 years.

In other actions the trustees voted to take about \$800,000 from current cash on hand to make up the shortfall in the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which closed May 31 at \$80,197,870.78. The full \$81 million goal had been budgeted, said Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, and transfer of the funds will enable the board to fund all overseas capital projects set up under the budget.

The board also transferred \$3 million into a global fund from which missionary housing and strategic capital projects will be funded worldwide. Johnson said the money was part of that originally budgeted for new missionaries. It became

available because fewer missionaries have been appointed than anticipated when the budget was adopted.

The board's strategy committee adopted a statement affirming the importance of the role of missionary wives "in their biblical role of Christian homemakers and in their God-called responsibilities as missionaries."

The statement, approved in committee but reported to the full board, said the balance can be seen clearly in the New Testament, citing 1 Timothy 5:14, Titus 2:5, Acts 2:17-18, and Galatians 3:26-29.

"In the determination of missionary deployment," the statement said, "the Foreign Mission Board has stated, 'Adequate care and attention for children is of primary spiritual importance.' This statement will be given full weight in assisting all missionary parents, and especially

mothers, in defining the use of their time."

As the board has sought to concentrate more of its missionary energies directly toward evangelism and starting of churches, some missionary wives have felt torn between the needs of their family and their desire to be more involved with their husbands in starting of new churches.

Another aspect of the role of women on the mission field was addressed in a report by Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel. Citing the significant evangelism contributions made through the board's history by such women as Josephine Ward and Bertha Smith, Spurgeon said "the issue of women's ordination has built walls in human hearts that are harmful to Christ's mission."

The Foreign Mission Board has repeatedly stated that ordination is not an issue in the appointment of

missionaries," he said. "Yet many consecrated women do not believe that they have a place in the world mission enterprise because of the garbled messages they have heard."

He concluded: "I urge you to join with me in blowing a trumpet, with no uncertain sound, that Southern Baptists are continuing to send both women and men, married or single, to share the Gospel with a lost and dying world."

The board's final session of the June meeting was to take place June 13 in the Superdome, where trustees will approve the appointment of 34 new missionaries. The group will include trustee Ray England, pastor of First Church, Winchester, Ky. He and his wife, Leslie, will be appointed missionaries to the Philippines.

Bob Stanley writes for FMB.

Student volunteers return from U.S.S.R.

By Martha Skelton

LENINGRAD, U.S.S.R. (BP) — The first group of volunteers Southern Baptists have ever sent to the Soviet Union — 10 Baptist student members and two leaders from Tennessee — returned home June 8.

They spent more than two weeks helping restore an old church building for Leningrad's newest Baptist congregation, called the Temple of the Gospel. The building, about 100 years old, was constructed by Old Believers, an ancient branch of the Russian Orthodox Church. After being confiscated by the government during the Stalinist years, it was used as an industrial plant. It was turned over to Baptists last year.

Sergei Nikolaev, pastor of the church, expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the project. It was the first time in history American Christians had been able to do this for their Soviet brothers and sisters, he said.

The volunteer team was the first of four going to Leningrad this summer to work in the renovation project. The student effort is sponsored by the national student ministries section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and coordinated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. In addition, the mission board provided \$150,000 toward the renovation.

The participants said they felt God's leading in their trip to Leningrad.

Jeff Ramsey of Johnson City, Tenn., wanted to go because of "the mystery of the Soviet Union." "I wanted to see with my own eyes history being made, see how God has opened doors for the Gospel," he said.

Bob Hall, an adult leader and BSU director at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, said, "It is like being in the United States in 1776."

They also felt it was a unique opportunity. "We're amazed at why God picked us to be here," said Jay Victory of Columbia, Tenn. "It's just hitting us how big this is. We're the first."

Most of the students prepared for

the project by reading up on their destination and attending an orientation held by the sponsoring agencies. Their expectations varied. Some expected worse economic conditions than they found while others expected a high standard of living. They reflected varying degrees of understanding about the ideological situation in the Soviet Union and about what is going on in evangelical churches there.

Most of their memorable experiences involved people.

Tears came to Rodney Wilson's eyes as he told about the night the elderly widow with whom he and Bob Hall were staying pointed to a word in a Russian-English dictionary that meant bored or lonely. She said, "That was me. Then Rodney and Bob came." Wilson is an associate in the student ministries department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Staying with church members and getting to know them was a highlight as well as another of the "first" for the trip. Students and hosts alike seemed to relish the experience despite language and cultural differences.

Allan Lovelace of Morristown, Tenn., and Ramsey stayed with Andrei and Marina Smirnov, a couple almost their same age — early to mid-20s. Their generosity and friendliness impressed Lovelace. "They're starting to say 'yes' and 'no,' and we are starting to say 'da' and 'nyet,'" he said.

Ramsey, a former U.S. Army sergeant, found that his host's years in the Soviet army almost mirrored his in years and rank. As he and Smirnov got to know each other, they found they both had similar experiences and attitudes toward each other. Through living and working together, they moved beyond Cold War rhetoric and stereotypes. "We consider each other personal friends now," Ramsey said.

Worship at the church was another lingering memory for team members. The language barrier didn't prevent them from worshiping and seeing how their hosts worship. The American students noted that services run longer than in America, lasting at least two hours, and feature several sermons and plenty of choir and special music.

Martha Skelton writes for FMB.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Mississippians in New Orleans



The Russell McIntires of Clinton stand in front of the senior adult choir of First Church, Clinton, as they sing a duet during the choir's presentation of a portion of *Doors of Life*, a

new senior adult musical by Irene Martin of Mississippi. Bill Bacon is the director. The choir was accompanied by Mickey Landrum.



The children's choir of West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo sings during the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. The director is Terry Hurt.



Music officers — Newly-elected officers and executive council members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference are (front row, from left) Thomasene Owensby, east denominational division, of Atlanta, Ga.; Betty Bedsole, vice president of the music educators division, Louisville, Ky.; Paul Richardson, journal editor, Louisville, Ky.; Dot Pray, vice president of the denominational division, Jackson, Miss.; Gary Ingles, west educational division, Bolivar, Mo.; (back row, from left) Gara Stark, vice president of the local church division, Mineral Springs, Texas; Clark Measels, publications editor, Jeff-

erson City, Tenn.; Wendell Boerteje, east local church division, Knoxville, Tenn.; Louis Ball, secretary-treasurer, Jefferson City, Tenn.; Mark Edwards, president, Nashville, Tenn.; and Bob Hatfield, president-elect, Birmingham, Ala. Not pictured are Bill Roper, east local church division, Montgomery, Ala.; Bill James, west local church division, Dallas, Texas; Emerson Porter, west local church division, Allen, Texas; Bobby Jones, west denominational division, Jefferson City, Mo.; and Lloyd Mims, east educational division, Louisville, Ky. (SBC photo by Van Payne)

At last, my long-time wish came true. I rode the City of New Orleans to the Crescent City. The train, which left Jackson at mid-morning, was in New Orleans by 2 p.m. To go by plane would have meant going by way of Nashville — or Atlanta.

I stepped out at the depot, across the interstate from the Superdome, into 90-degree heat, reportedly "drenched in 63 percent humidity." I paid a taxi driver \$3.50 to escort me across the road to the Hyatt Regency.

Though I had left Mississippi for a few days to attend the 1990 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, I certainly had not gotten away from Mississippians. They were everywhere; 3,100 of them had registered.

At breakfast in the Hyatt's Court yard, I stood in line behind Ray and Gretta Lloyd of Starkville, waved at Sue Tatum and Elizabeth Cooper of Yazoo City, and met Frances and Russell Bush of Hattiesburg on my way out. Mrs. Cooper's husband, the late Owen Cooper, was a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

When I arrived at the press room to pick up my credentials, Genevieve Zachary was waiting at the door. The two of us toured the exhibit areas. (I met her years ago in Laurel, though she lives now in Homer, La.)

At the Foreign Mission Board booth, we ran into Guinevere and James Young, missionaries to Bangladesh, on furlough in Clinton.

Later, Hyatt's shuttle set me down at Riverwalk, where once I had wandered with World's Fair fans. A hot dog vendor, a middle-aged woman, had parked her wagon at a street corner by the Convention Center, where the WMU annual meeting was in progress, 10 or 15 blocks from the Superdome. I eased over to the shadowed sidewalk table of a restaurant across the street and pretended to be one of their customers while I ate my hot dog, my tongue flaming from its peppery contents. Re-crossing the street, I met three Louisville Mississippians — Juanita Hight, Rita Land, and Frances Ball, and joined them for the afternoon session of the WMU meeting. (The full story of that meeting will be told elsewhere in the Record). Pattie Dent of Clinton was elected recording secretary of WMU, SBC, for the fifth time. Monte Clendinning, one of the speakers, was born in Mississippi.

Musicians at the WMU meeting held present or previous ties with Mississippi: Mary Simmons, organist; Carol Aultman, song leader; and Chris Kihn, pianist. The Centurymen who sang have five Mississippi members — Graham Smith, Raymond Ball, Lester Mason, Gary Anglin, and James Hayes.

I met so many Mississippi women there I'd better not even begin the list! I mentioned the Louisville group because I returned with them to their room at the Riverwalk Hilton to rest. Along the way, Juanita and I bought sweet and sour shrimp and egg rolls. In their room, we spread our supper on the table by the window and ate while we watched boats pass by on the Mississippi River.

That Monday night session at the WMU was marvelous food for the spirit — more about that side of it

another time. Two from Magnolia sat beside me, Emma Stewart and Ruby Foster. That was a lifesaver for me, for Emma offered to drive me to my hotel. (That afternoon I'd heard a man was robbed at gunpoint, and his watch stolen, right in front of the Hilton, where I had planned to wait for the shuttle.) As we drove, we suddenly saw the bus, and I transferred.

I sat on the bus by an executive from California who said he was a Baptist, in town on business, not for the SBC. He asked for latest news of the "controversy." I told him I'd been to an inspirational meeting, not a business session. I didn't add, though I could have, that I've never heard the women fussing in their meeting — only the men in theirs.

Lines formed everywhere — at doorways, at restaurants, at the elevators. I stood in line at the Hyatt deli with four from Hattiesburg, Rex and Mary Alice Braswell, Mrs. Willie B. Blackwell, and Irene Loftus. One morning, at the same deli, I drank my decaf at a table next to that of Bill Causey.

The Sunday School Board's pageant was one of my favorite moments, for it celebrated the Board's centennial. Three Mississippians — all past presidents of the board — were featured in the pageant's parade — T. L. Holcomb, James L. Sullivan, and Grady Cothen. Actors played J. B. Gambrell, "the fiery, outspoken editor of the *Baptist Record of Mississippi*, who opposed the establishment of a publication board," and J. M. Frost, who favored it. At last the two came to an agreement, and presented a report. The 855 messengers to the 1891 convention in Birmingham settled a six-year-old controversy and began the Sunday School Board. Since then, not only has the Board been self-supporting, but has also funneled millions into the work of the SBC and to state Baptist conventions.

At the Southwestern Seminary luncheon, I spoke to Ev George of Jackson and Neta Stewart of Fort Worth, a Southwestern staff member who once worked in Mississippi.

One hundred thirteen Mississippi and Louisiana churches took part in a witnessing blitz. Mississippians on program at pre-conferences and at the convention included Bill Bacon and the senior adult choir of First Church, Clinton, who sang parts of a new musical, *Doors of Life*, by Irene Martin; Larry Black and First Church, Jackson, choir and orchestra; the Alan Celoria Family; Roger Paynter, senior pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson; Philip Griffin, minister of music, Highland, Laurel; Victor Walsh, dentist, and member of First Church, McComb; Terry Hurt and the West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, young musicians; and Jerry Clower, Amite County comedian.

The newly elected convention president, Morris Chapman, is a native of Mississippi. Dot Pray of Jackson was elected as an officer of the Church Music Conference. Bill Gambrell of Jackson was chosen as president-elect of the SBREA. Eddie Jones of Greenville received an award from the Home Mission Board at its New Work Ban-

(Continued on page 8)

Musicians focus on worship, witness

NEW ORLEANS, (BP) — Southern Baptist musicians focused on "The Mission . . . Worship and Witness" at a two-day conference preceding the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, in New Orleans.

A preview of the new Baptist Hymnal and numerous concerts highlighted the sessions at First Baptist Church.

The new hymnal will be released in March of 1991, said Wesley Forbis, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Music Department, Nashville.

"This hymnal was not produced for the Church Music Department, but instead for the people in the churches," he said, adding that the hymnal committee reviewed over 4,000 hymns submitted to come up with the 625 pieces of music.

Forbis announced that for every new hymnal purchased, one copy will be given to a mission church.

Participants sang from a "sample" of hymns from the new hymnal, the first singing by a volunteer group.

During a business session, musicians presented the W. Hines Sims award to Jane Manton Marshall, who teaches choral conducting and music theory at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

They also memorialized Carl Perry, emeritus minister of music at West Hills Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and Tom Westmoreland, retired director of the music department for the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Columbia.

New officers elected were Dot Pray, keyboard consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson, vice

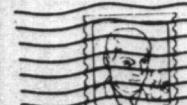
president of the denominational division; Lynn Madden, minister of music at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark., vice president of the local church division; and Betty Bedsole, professor of music at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., vice president of the music educators division.

A part of the presentation of the senior adult choir of First Church, Clinton, was the premiere performance of portions of a new musical for senior adults by Irene Martin of Harperville, a member of the *Baptist Record* staff. The musical is titled "Doors of Life" and was published recently by Genevox, the publishing arm of the Sunday School Board.

Also the children's choir of West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo sang during the Monday morning session of the conference.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Save the family

Editor:

There is much ado today about saving that which is becoming extinct: whales, eagles, etc.; but my heart is burdened about something much greater: the family.

God instituted the family even before the church, and yet we are living in a day when the family is on its way to becoming extinct. If the current trend continues, your grandchildren and mine will be either victims of divorce or just living together outside marriage, "shacked-up" we called it in my day. Today it seems to be acceptable by society, even among believers.

In the name of love, we Christians do not take a stand against it, but is it true love to accept that which we know is contrary to God's Word? If saving animals from becoming extinct is worth crusading for, surely the family, God's highest creation ought to be worth fighting for.

Until recently I only knew about divorce, but now I have experienced divorce within my own family. Now, I know the devastation that comes from it as I have watched my child and my grandchildren suffer in a way I never thought possible. Now, I

understand God's declaration that "He hates divorce" (Malachi 2:16).

This has prompted me to write my thoughts. It seems that more and more "believers" are drifting toward the way of the world instead of taking a stand upon the principles of God's Word. We seem to think that taking a stand is being judgmental and unloving, but is it?

Please pray with me and let us do what we can to change the trend that is sweeping our country. God help us to teach our children, by word and example, what God has to say about the home and family. Unless you and I can really make a difference, or Jesus returns soon, the family will become extinct.

Flora Wheat
Poplarville

P.S. "As the home goes, so goes the nation."

Enjoyable Senior Adult Day

Editor:

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to our pastor, Bro. Russ Barksdale, and our ministers of music, Brad and Tommy Jones, and others who made Senior Adult Day a day of joy and comfort.

Bro. Barksdale's message, dedicated to senior adults, was very impressive, not only to senior adults but also to every one present. Music plans made by Brad and Tommy were very appropriate to the occasion, and we appreciate them.

We want other Mississippi Baptists to know that First Church, Carthage, recognized her senior adults in a very special way on this special day.

After a great sermon a special meal was enjoyed in the family life center. After the meal a program, "The Gospel in Magic," presented by Dr. Henry E. Hight, pastor of Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, was enjoyed.

We hope many other senior adults had such an enjoyable day as we did. Audrey Mae Warwick, teacher for the Homemakers Sunday School class

Angry over attacks

Editor:

Please allow me to reply to the recent unwarranted attacks against Southern Seminary. It is very difficult not to be angry when people who have never studied in our seminaries take it upon themselves to launch attacks and make accusations that those of us who have been in them know to be false and even silly.

I became a Christian in 1972 at the age of 25 years and found myself sitting in Southern Seminary classrooms two years later. And the years I spent in those classrooms were among the best years of my life. It was a world

where Christianity came alive and being Christian was an exciting challenge.

After graduation from Southern I pastored in Cherokee County, South Carolina, for five years and have now been a missionary in Japan for seven years. Southern Seminary made it all possible, and I resent the undeserved attacks against that institution. I especially find the accusations against Dr. Roy Honeycutt to be offensive, ill-informed, and blatantly false, not to mention just plain mean. Are Southern Baptists going to sit still and watch their fine seminaries destroyed one-by-one by that kind of spirit?

Gene Hines
Kitanodai 3-44-11
Hachioji-shi
Tokyo 192, Japan

Apathy for abortion satanic

Editor:

On this past Mothers' Day as I sat in the morning worship service of our church and witnessed the beautiful dedication service of newborn babies, it broke my heart to think that at the same time many babies are not being given a chance to be born today in our nation and in other countries in this world. I believe that our nation and society have stooped very, very low in allowing abortion to go on in this country. I consider abortion to be a Satanic practice coming straight out of hell. I also consider the so-called abortion

clinics to be murder chambers. I contend that over 27,000 babies have been murdered in this nation since 1973.

Where do women get the idea that their bodies belong to them and that they can do just whatever they want to do with them? They certainly don't get it out of the Bible. I Corinthians 6:19,20 states: "What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." The whole person of every Christian man and woman belongs to God, body included.

So I contend that no pregnant woman can glorify God by aborting her unborn baby. I don't believe that God would lead any woman to abort the unborn fetus that is in her and that only Satan will lead her to do such a beastly and devilish thing as that. No doctors or judges or any person with any kind of authority will ever convince me that abortion is right or is justified. I can't understand the apathy on the part of so many professing Christians concerning this which I call a beastly and an ungodly practice. When are we going to wake up and speak out and act against it?

Back before and during World War II we thought Hitler was an evil demon, murdering the many people that he did.

But here, we as a nation are carrying on what I contend is mass murder, which is just as evil.

Walter McCraw
Long Beach

Conservatives dominate SBC . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Messengers referred the issue to the Southern Seminary trustees after convention legal counsel said the convention constitution and bylaws do not provide a procedure for removing a trustee from office.

Presentation of the home mission and foreign mission reports provided messengers challenge and inspiration.

Charles Chaney, vice president of extension at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, urged messengers to accept a goal of starting four new churches a day.

Billy Johnson of Dixie Church dies at 58

Billy G. Johnson, 58, pastor of Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, died June 17 at Forrest General Hospital after a lengthy bout with cancer.

Funeral services were June 19 at Dixie Church. Burial was in County Line Church cemetery in Jones County.

Johnson was born in 1931 in Ovett and began preaching at 17. His first pastorate was at Lula Church in Madison County while he was a freshman at Mississippi College. He was graduated from William Carey College in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in speech and religion. He also received the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary in 1978.

Johnson had been pastor of Dixie

Chaney said Southern Baptists currently are starting churches at the rate of more than three each day and are ahead of the mission board's goal of having 50,000 churches by the year 2000.

While commissioning 34 new foreign missionaries, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., called on Southern Baptists to use their wealth in a more generous way to help spread the Gospel around the world. David and Myra Shofner, among those commissioned, are Mississippi College graduates.

Church since 1978. Other pastores have included Springfield Church, Morton; Eulaton Church, Aniston, Ala.; and Wildwood Church, Laurel. He served as president of pastores' conferences in several associations and was a former member of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He led many retreats and family life conferences throughout the convention, and he was the author of several articles for the Baptist Record.

Survivors include his wife, Mae Ora Johnson of Hattiesburg; and two sons, Daniel L. Johnson of Nashville; and William V. Johnson of Ardmore, Okla. His mother, Hattie Johnson, lives in Hattiesburg; and two brothers are, Johnny Johnson of Hattiesburg; and Donald Johnson of Moss Point. He has two grandsons.

The family announced that memorials may be given to the Billy Johnson memorial scholarship fund in care of Dixie Baptist Church,

Pointing to changes in Eastern Europe and Asia as examples of God's timing, Parks said Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time.

In a major address, outgoing President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., urged messengers to remain alert to doctrinal error else the denomination "could become a mustard seed monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

While denominational loyalty is

Mississippians in New Orleans . . .

(Continued from page 7)

quiet. Bill Causey of Jackson received an award from the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

One night, I went to dinner with a group of associate editors at Birraporetti's. Afterward, as several of us walked, we heard a youth choir sing "Sweet Holy Spirit" as they stood on steps across from Jackson Square. Threads of sunset pink reached tentative fingers toward the steeple of St. Louis Cathedral. Then, as we walked behind the cathedral, we noticed a giant shadow on the rear wall of the church, evidently the reflection of a statue of Jesus, standing with uplifted arms, as if stretching them over the city.

"How ironic," said one of my friends, "that such religious symbolism should be so near to Bourbon Street . . ." But to me it seemed most appropriate, for it reminded me of His arms always stretched out in love, not only for that city, but for all of us sinners. How he must sometimes stand in grief, as he did when he said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often

desirable, it must not supplant loyalty to Christ and the Bible, he said.

In the annual convention sermon, Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., called for repentence of pride and a return to prayer essential before God's spirit can bring a modern day awakening.

Wolfe claimed Southern Baptists have trusted in their pride, self sufficiency and might instead of the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Looking toward the 1991 convention on June 4-6 in Atlanta, messengers

chose Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Church, Del City, Okla., and 1990 president of the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference, to preach the convention sermon.

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Examples of patience for impatient Christians

By N. Allan Moseley
James 5:7-20

Our's is not an age of patience. Take Christmas. The impatience of children that incites them to beg for Santa as early as Dec. 26 has now become an accepted part of our collective psyche. There are Christmas parades before Thanksgiving, and retail merchants stampede the consuming public in the effort to generate Christmas cheer (and Xmas income) by mid-November. Another example is marriage. It takes truckloads of patience to do anything "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health," and to do it for a lifetime. But easy divorce and no-strings-attached marriages have made patience passe. Then there is T.V. Complicated interpersonal problems develop and are resolved in the span of 30 minutes (including commercials!) before our eyes each night. Add instant oatmeal, one-hour dry cleaning, overnight mail, and fax machines, and you have the ingredients for a culture that doesn't want to wait.



Moseley

BIBLE BOOK

Regardless of our cultural climate, living the Christian life requires patience. In fact, Christians are commanded to "Be patient" (James 5:7), like a farmer. James' illustration is ageless. In our hurry-up world, in spite of irrigation and biological engineering, farmers still have to wait for the crop to mature. The process of growth is beyond our control; it is in God's hands. Precisely for that reason the illustration is helpful to us. There are those who feel trapped in a marriage that will not improve; sometimes there is nothing else to do but to be patient. Others are chained to a task that seems interminably draining; though there may be an instinctive urge to run, it may be best to wait on the Lord. The fact that we are not in control of our circumstances should be a reminder that God is.

The content of the command to be patient has to do with the oppression of the godly poor by the ungodly rich. The assurances of James that "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (5:8), and "the judge standeth before the door" (5:9) remind the reader that God will vindicate the righteous and judge the wicked. Since God's

timetable is not ours, we must wait for his retribution, and that requires patience. In the meantime, we must resist the temptation to scoff at God and his patience with sinners (II Peter 3:3-12), recognizing that for now the tares are allowed to grow beside the wheat (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43).

Also, James urged his readers to be persistent, like a prophet. These Christians were oppressed, but so were the prophets and James reminded his readers of their "example of suffering affliction" (5:10). There are many thematic connections between the Book of James and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7), and this reminder of the prophets is another one. Jesus said to his disciples, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Mt. 5:11-12). The prophets were persecuted, but they kept on serving God through the affliction; for their reward was from God, not from men.

What does it take to shut down your service for Christ? If the Sunday School class you teach does not appreciate you, is that enough to discourage you? Would you quit if the preacher

or deacons did not live up to your expectations? If you were scorned by friends, would you give up? God has too many fair-weather friends. The prophets continued to be faithful to God no matter what others did, and so should we.

James also exhorted these early Christians to persevere, like Job. It may be that this passage in James is the origin of the proverbial "patience of Job," because it is difficult to conclude that Job was patient from the book that bears his name. Though he cried out his complaints to the Lord and to his friends, he did persevere (vs. 11 — "endure"). In spite of suffering, he did not curse God; he did not give up. The lesson that James learned from God's dealings with Job is that "the Lord is very pitiful (compassionate), and of tender mercy" (vs. 11). One treasure of Bible study is the wonderful gift of historical perspective. When Job was suffering he could not see around the corner of his circumstances to know how God would bring him through, and when we are hurting we often cannot look forward and see our way out either. However, we can look back and see that God has rewarded the perseverance of Job, the persistence of the prophets, and the patience of farmers. He will reward us, too. Give him time.

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport).

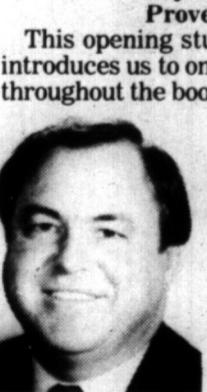
A covenant of the heart . . . accountability

By Wayne Campbell
Jeremiah 31:27-34

The first telescopes were built in the early 1600s and quickly became essential implements for all students of astronomy. Suddenly those parts of God's universe which had been outside the realm of man's research were visible. In our lesson text God is looking through the telescope of his loving omniscience to a time when his people would know him in a new relationship based upon a new covenant.

Several covenants are identifiable in God's dealings with Israel. The Mosaic covenant given at Sinai, however, is representative of all of them. Here God said to them, "Now, if you will obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession" (Ex. 19:5a NIV). God's people had failed to live up to their part of the agreement, however. Indeed, it was Israel's

covenant given at Sinai, however, is representative of all of them. Here God said to them, "Now, if you will obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession" (Ex. 19:5a NIV). God's people had failed to live up to their part of the agreement, however. Indeed, it was Israel's



Campbell

LIFE AND WORK

violations of God's law and God's love that necessitated the judgment they were presently facing. But it was God's love for them, despite their disobedience, that made a new relationship possible.

The same divine hand that has power to pluck up and break down and overthrow also is able to build up and to plant (vs. 28). God is looking beyond the time of judgment and disaster to promise a day of redemption and restoration. But he also has a word about responsibility. It is human nature to wish to be treated as responsible adults in matters of trust and opportunity. But in areas of accountability we prefer to be regarded as infants.

In the new covenant God speaks of, each person will be held individually responsible for his own choices. The alibi of corporate guilt, by which individual Israelites often sought to escape personal responsibility, would no longer be valid.

In his book *Whatever Became Of Sin?* Karl

Menninger quotes Anna Russell's "Psychiatric Folksong":

"At three I had a feeling of ambivalence toward my brothers,
And now I'm happy; I have learned the lesson this has taught;
That everything I do that's wrong is someone else's fault."

Our society today is reaping the tragic results of the denial of personal accountability. Crimes against society and individuals are shrugged off as the inevitable product of poverty and deprivation. Carried to the extreme, this line of reasoning elevates criminals' rights above those of their victims. God is not conned by our attempts as a nation or as individuals to deny responsibility for our actions. The entire text of Jeremiah's message of his people was about inescapable accountability. Sin still brings judgment. Furthermore (vs. 30), sin's judgment is death. Yet because of God's benevolent will that man should not have to die for his sins and because of man's inability to provide an alternative, God said, "I will . . ." "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that

those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant" (Heb. 9:15 NIV). In this covenant, God's law is written on man's heart, making it an internal personal relationship. Thus this covenant implies, not just a duty to obey the Lord, but a desire to do so.

An old mountain man walked several miles to the shop of a clock repairman. Upon arriving, he removed from his pocket the hands of his grandfather clock and requested that the shopkeeper fix them so that they would keep the correct time. When he was told there was nothing wrong with the clock's hands, the old man insisted that there must be, because they would not point to the correct hour. What he had not realized was that the problem was on the inside of the timepiece, and therefore, required an internal remedy. The covenant relationship which God offers us in Christ Jesus recognizes man's problem and deals with the heart of the matter.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

Fear of the Lord — beginning of knowledge

By Tommy Vinson
Proverbs 1:1-9, 20-23

This opening study in the Book of Proverbs introduces us to one of the major themes found throughout the book: The Fear of the Lord. Our theme verse for this week (vs. 7) further exposes us to the literary device of contrast used often in the Proverbs. Two classes of people are mentioned, those who fear the Lord and the foolish ones who do not. Moffatt's translation helps clarify the contrast when he renders it: "Reverence for the eternal is the first thing in knowledge, but the impious scorn sagacity and intelligence." In New Testament vernacular, the contrast is between the believer and the unbeliever, the saved and the lost.

What does it mean to "fear the Lord?" Does it mean to slink away from his holy presence much like Adam and Eve did when they had sinned in the garden? No! It is not being afraid of God. It is not slavish fear or some sort of foreboding apprehension. This kind of fear "hath torment" (I John 4:18). Paul clearly teaches us that "God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7). Using Moffatt's word, it means a "reverence" for God that causes the one who fears him to be gripped by a holy desire to please him. It would be comparable to the fear a loving child has for his parents. Before

UNIFORM

he was saved, Paul was afraid God would hurt him if he didn't perform his lawful religious duties with extreme exactness. After he was saved, Paul was afraid he would hurt God by an inappropriate response or vacillating testimony.

Proverbs 1:7 indicates that when a man fears the Lord he has started to know the Lord (Prov. 9:10; 15:33). Paul wrote to the Philippians that his goal in life was to "know him and the power of his resurrection" (Phil. 3:10). There is a subtle temptation to substitute learning facts about God for actually getting to know God. This usually produces Christians who are six miles wide and one inch deep. J. I. Packer has written a volume entitled *Knowing God*, in which he defends the idea that knowing the Lord is a matter of degree. We may take advantage of our privilege as believers and know him in an intimate and personal way, or we may choose to keep a cool distance. It's almost paradoxical; a man only begins to fear God when he starts to know him, and he only gets to know him when he fears him.

When one genuinely fears the Lord it produces a repentant attitude towards sin, and causes one to seek to live a life characterized by holiness (Prov. 3:7; 14:16). It is impossible to view God with genuine reverential awe without our life being changed. Once the Apos-

tle Paul encountered the risen Christ on the Damascus road his life was irreversibly altered (II Cor. 5:17).

An old man with many bitter enemies made a profession of faith, in a country Baptist church. The next day the evangelist and pastor looked for him to encourage him in his newfound faith. All day long they tried to trace him down, but with no success. Finally, time for services came and the pastor and evangelist made their way to the church house. Seated on the steps was the old man for whom they had searched all day long. "We've been looking for

you all day" commented the pastor. "Where have you been?"

"Oh," said the old man, "I've been going from house to house all over the community getting things right with folks I have offended over the years."

"Who told you to do that?" asked the evangelist.

"No one, it just seemed the right thing to do." When a person learns to fear the Lord he also learns "the right thing to do."

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Simpson County has mission-minded people

Simpson County Association has a large group of mission-minded people. This summer, projects have been planned for Simpson County, Miss. and other areas. Some of the projects and workers include:

FBC Mendenhall youth group to Encampment Wyoming

FBC Magee men to Montana for construction work

FBC Magee leading in Backyard Bible Clubs in Magee

Actees from Goodwater, Oak Grove, Poplar Springs and Macedonia leading in Backyard Bible Clubs at the Mendenhall Apartment, Athens Church, and New Galilee MB Church

Poplar Springs Actees will assist in the Mission Blitz in Jackson County.

Siloam Actees will work at the Seaman Center in Gulfport.

Also, a group of men from Holly Grove and Pine Grove assisted in installing siding on a retired pastor's home.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Feb. 1, 1990 -
Mar. 31, 1990**

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Mr. & Mrs. David Lee King
Rev. Partee Tutor
Mrs. Ilene T. Kennedy
Jack VanLandingham
Mrs. Kathryn P. Hunter
Mrs. Verette
Mrs. Eloise Avery
Lydia & Terry Cain
Mr. John T. Vineyard
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Mrs. Marie Vineyard
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Thigpen Jr.
Tom Vineyard
Mrs. Frances Hammer
Dr. J. E. Waddington
Ms. Mary F. Wyatt
Mrs. Berniece Waldon
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy
Steve McElroy
Miss Eloise Walker
Mrs. Hardy Denham Sr.
Mrs. Miller Wyatt
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Criss
Mr. & Mrs. Carl M. Kelly Jr.
Mr. Ellis Walker
Rev. & Mrs. Wilburn Matthews
Mr. George Walker
Mrs. Mary Nell May
Mr. Jewel Walker
Fellowship Baptist Church
Mrs. Allene Walker
Mrs. Patsy B. Ates
Mrs. Norma Walker
Officers/Directors of Trustmark National Bank
Mrs. V. L. Walker
Mrs. Otto Bell & Children
Mr. S. L. Waller
Providence Baptist Church
Mr. Alton Walters
Betty & Bill Davis
Mrs. Mabus Walters
Mrs. Doris S. Puryear
Mrs. Narnee Williams
S. A. Walters
Ladies Class, Lambert United Methodist Church
Mrs. Cornelia Waltman
Mrs. Mary A. Thomas
Mary Ward
Mrs. Charles M. Agent
Mr. Joe Ward
Ms. Jean Bradley
Mr. Paul Watkins
Mrs. Wanda Watkins
Mrs. Francis Watts
Mrs. Shirley H. Meinardi
Mrs. Jessie Weatherall
Mr. & Mrs. James Hodges
Mrs. Helen B. Jenkins
Howard Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Culpeper
Mrs. Willa Welch
Ms. Lutie Temple Lott
Mrs. Beatrice West
Sr. Adult SS, Lake Como BC
Mr. C. H. Whatley
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mr. Kary Whatley
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Benton
Newell (Patsy) Whelan
Bethany Baptist Church
Prentiss
J. W. White
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne D. Hodge
Mrs. Bernice Whitfield
Shuqualak Baptist Church
Adult Ladies SS, Shuqualak BC
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Butler
Mrs. Frank Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dugan & Family
Mrs. Hazel Flora
Mrs. Anna Belle Holliman

Mr. Howard A. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Hilton Ray
Mr. Eric Donahoe
Mrs. Ruby Dell Wilson
The H. K. Barron Family
Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. Rawls
Rev. O. A. Winscott
Ms. Grace M. Grubbs
Rev. Elton Winstead
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage
Mrs. Doris Eva Winter
Baptist Women, Macedonia BC, Calhoun City
Kenneth Earl Winters
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Diane Woods
Wilkes Grissom
Mrs. D. C. Owen
Mr. Charlie Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Rives B. Lowrey & Family
James A. Wooten
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bidwell Sr.
Mrs. Emma Young
Mrs. Mary Frank Bryan
Elaine Ziek
Mr. Charles Ziek
Mr. Hilton Zumbro
FBC Bude
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Tyson

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dannerberg
Mr. Ed Bennett
The R. B. Lowrey Family
Mrs. Frances Bryant
Annie Mae Weaver Sunday School, Calvary BC
Dr. & Mrs. H. M. Campbell
Adult 6 Sunday School
Ms. Jean Carter
The Serenity Sunday School
Mr. & Mrs. Willys E. Carter
Faculty & Staff of Ingomar School
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight G. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Dugger
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dannenberg
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Fagan
Mrs. L. E. Green
Mrs. J. H. Flake
Mrs. Glenda Freeman
Ms. Claudine Gary
The Serenity Sunday School
New baby, Laura Beth Goolsby
Ms. Jennie Sue Coltharp
Mrs. Arda Green
Eastview Baptist Church
Mrs. Ruth Guldge
Faith Sunday School FBC Grenada
Mrs. Louise Haralson
Mrs. Betty Knott
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Gaskin
Mrs. Avis Herring
Inspiration SS, FBC West Point
Mrs. Anne Hoff
Phoebe SS, FBC McComb
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. Mack Hoop
Mrs. Tim Childs
Mrs. W. J. (Leone) Howard
Mr. Mike Davis
Mrs. Hubert Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Jordan
Mrs. Betty Knott
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Gaskin
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Martin
Wildlife Technical Services
Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Lammons

Mrs. Carmen McCully
Annie Mae Weaver Sunday School, Calvary BC
The Honorable Kent McDaniel
Trinity Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Mrs. Martha McHaney
Inspiration SS, FBC West Point
George McLellan
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Jones
Carol Meadors
Harold's of Jackson, Inc.
Grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell
M. Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell
Miss Edythe Montray
WMU, Clarksdale BC
Mrs. Mavis Burch
Mr. & Mrs. Mike McAlpin
Mrs. Vernel McAlpin
Mr. & Mrs. Mike McAlpin
Mrs. William Sansing
Rev. & Mrs. Randel S. Poss
Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Peters
Wildlife Technical Services
Mr. Dale Purser
Ms. Marilyn F. Jackson
Mrs. Bessie Rimes
Ladies SS, Progress BC
Mrs. Laura Roberson
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevill
Mr. Chester Robinson
The R. B. Lowrey Family
Mrs. Misti Scott
Eastview Baptist Church
Thomas Mitchell Shive
Mrs. Hazel T. Campbell
Rogene Stallings
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC Columbus
Mrs. Eva Steen
Charite SS, Woodland Hills BC
Mrs. Peggy Taylor
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Gaskin
Mrs. Mamie Thompson
Children of Mrs. Mamie Thompson
Rev. & Mrs. Walton
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hall
Mrs. Vera Young
Vera Young SS, FBC Holly Springs

April 1, 1990 -

May 31, 1990

HONORS

Ms. Beverly Allen
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC Columbus
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Williamson, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Williamson, Jr.
Mrs. Marie Culpepper

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS DAYS

June 24-27 Rev. Phil Waldrep from Trinity, Alabama will be our guest speaker on the India Nunnery Campus near Jackson. Village staff and children from all six campuses will be in Jackson for the Sunday through Wednesday emphasis.

Rev. Phil Waldrep

Founded the Phil Waldrep Evangelistic Association – January 1980

Featured speaker at Alabama and Louisiana Youth Evangelism Conferences and Alabama State Deacon's Retreat

Conducts largest youth conference in southeastern United States.

Outstanding Young Religious Leader Decatur (Alabama) Jaycees – 1987

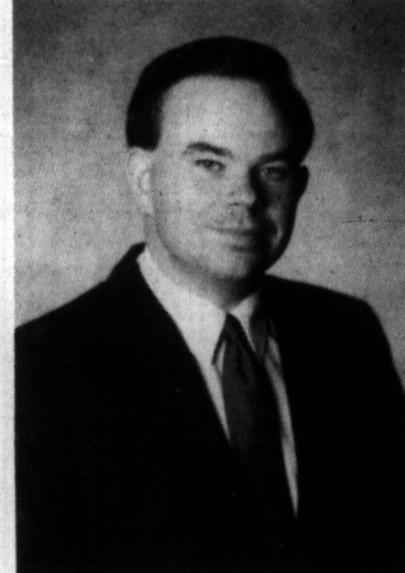
Outstanding Young Men of America

Who's Who Among Writers, Editors and Poets – 1987

We want to express a special thank you to Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton who will be hosting Brother Phil and the Village Staff and Children in their June 24 evening worship service at 7:00 p.m.

We also want to send out a special thank you to Van Winkle Baptist Church in Jackson for housing some of our staff and children from our satellite campuses.

Pray with us that God will touch many lives during these special days!



Clinton helps sink wells in Bangladesh

By Bobby Redding

"Sinking a Well for Living Water" has become the motto of the Brotherhood of First Church, Clinton, during 1989-1990.

Following a missions presentation in November by furloughing missionary James Young of Bangladesh, the men of the church adopted a goal of designating all agri-missions funds raised to help construct tube wells in this needy country.

It is reported that 80 percent of the diseases in developing countries are related to drinking water. Due to the local geology, it is possible to construct one of these protected wells to produce safe drinking water for an average of approximately \$200.00. Each well furnishes safe water for a village community of 100-150 people, replacing an unsafe water source which usually consists of a polluted local ditch or pond.

Young, a 20-year veteran missionary, reports that all seven missionary couples in the country are involved in the sinking of these wells. The well construction program provides excellent public relations with the Moslem government. It also pro-

vides a natural point to begin witnessing of faith in Christ as the source of "living water."

Upon returning to Bangladesh, Young will serve as chairman of the mission. He is a native of Thomastown and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest third world countries. Slightly smaller in land area than Mississippi, it has a population of 110,000,000 people with a density of 2,000 people per square mile.

This "Living Water" project is one of hundreds of MANNA projects available to Brotherhood and WMU groups in the Southern Baptists Convention. MANNA (Administering Aid to Needy Nations Abroad) projects vary in cost from \$0.32 to \$10,000 and allow direct provisions of support to SBC missionaries in their work. Copies of MANNA project lists may be obtained from any Agri-Missions Fellowship officer or the Brotherhood Department.

Bobby Redding is projects coordinator for Agri-missions fellowship.



Instrumental workshop held in Clinton

The Celebration Orchestra, above, was part of the Tri-State Instrumental Workshop held at Mississippi College and First Church, Clinton, May 17-19. Participants were from Arkansas, Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The workshop was sponsored by the Church Music Department of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas Baptist Conventions, as well as the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and Mississippi College.

Devotional

Does it matter?

By Gene Hines

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58; NIV).

"Isn't it pointless?" That is what I was thinking. "Here I am," I thought, "driving two hours across a mountain in the middle of the night, in a snow storm, to teach a class with one person in it. Seems pointless."

Do you ever feel that way? Do you ever wonder if all the times you try to witness and serve the Lord really make any difference? I had visited over one hundred homes in Aomori, Japan and invited all those people to come to a class at a Baptist church in the city. One person came. And, for several months, I drove nearly two hours each way, each week over a mountain to teach that one person. Was it worth it? Did it matter?

A long time ago, on September 25, 1954 to be exact, a ship called the Doyamaru sank in a typhoon near the Japanese island of Hokkaido. Over one thousand people drowned. One of them was a Christian missionary who gave his life-jacket to a young mother and her infant child.

Thirty-six years later you still hear the story of the Christian missionary who gave away his life-jacket. And when a Japanese person hears that story they have to stop and wonder what it is that could make a foreign missionary give his life away for a people not even his own. Was it worth it? Did it really matter?

What you do for Jesus does matter. It may not seem like much. It may look hopeless and pointless. The effects of it may be invisible. But, if you do it to serve and obey Jesus, it is enough. That is how you answer all those "does it matter, is it worth it?" questions. "Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know your work in the Lord is not in vain."

Gene Hines is a Southern Baptist missionary, Tokyo, Japan.



Hines

Names in the news

Mississippi College Department of music will present Joe Elliott of Brookhaven in a senior voice recital, June 26, at 8 p.m. in Aven Auditorium.

Elliott, a tenor, has studied under the direction of Gerald Claxton, assistant professor of music at the college.

The program for the recital consists of Italian selections by composers Porpora, Busatt, Scarlatti, and Melani. Other works include a recitative and aria by Handel; a French selection by composer Faure; a German selection by composer Schubert; and an English selection by composer Michael Head.

Homecomings

Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville (Newton): June 24; regular morning services; noon meal; afternoon services, 1:30-3:00 p.m. will feature "The Believers;" memory service, cemetery association, former pastors and friends. Michael Truhett, pastor.

Macedonia Church (Simpson): June 24; dinner on the grounds following morning worship; former pastors invited to participate in afternoon services, 1:30; special building fund offering will be taken; favorite recipes will be published in church cookbook.

Pilgrim's Rest Church, Ethel (Attala): June 24; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon singing 1:30 p.m.; Alton Milner, church music director, will sing; celebration includes the marking of the 140th anniversary of the congregation; Walter Hines, pastor.

Macedonia Church, Petal (Lebanon): June 24; Sunday School 9:45; worship 11; "Singspiration" 1:30; covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; Buddy Keys, guest speaker; men's quartet "Perfect Heart" and Lisa D. Cunningham will sing; Jerry Doggett is pastor.

Palestine Church, Harrisville: June 24; Duanne Bradford, pastor, speaker for 11 a.m. service; lunch served in fellowship hall following worship service; afternoon singing and business meeting will follow; offerings of the day will go for cemetery fund.

Revival dates

Leesburg Church, Morton (Rankin): May 6-9; 33 professions of faith; one statement; four by letter; and 50 rededications; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Phillip Willis, singer; Odus Jackson, pastor.

Peach Creek Church (Panola): June 24-27, nightly at 7 p.m.; Bob Dean, pastor of the West Chickasaw Church in Chickasaw, Ala. will be the evangelist.

Faith Church (Lawrence): June 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch served; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Danny Berry, evangelist; James Netherland, music.

"What did you learn in school today?" the mother of a first-grade student asked. "I learned that 4 and 4 make 9," he told her. "But that's wrong," the mother said. The youngster answered: "Well, in that case I didn't learn anything."

Mississippi Baptist activities

June 28 Key Leader Seminar; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (EVAN)



Three Mississippi men were among more than 172 men from 23 states and Canada attending the national Men's University training conference May 31-June 3 for Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men's leaders on the campus of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn. They were, from left: Derrel Palmer, Brandon; David Langston, Brandon; and Jeff Swedeburg, Hazlehurst.



Toni McCoy (standing, left) of the Baptist Book Store, Jackson, was recently recognized by SBC Woman's Missionary Union for her work. McCoy joined nine other employees of Baptist Book Stores from across the country for two days of training and recognition at the WMU national headquarters building in Birmingham.



John Moody was ordained to the gospel ministry at First Church, Natchez, on April 1. He is presently serving with "Ambassadors for Christ International" in Atlanta, Ga. Moody is married to the former Becky Bowlin and they have one child, Ashley.



Stephen Scott Smith was ordained to the ministry, May 20, by Corinth Church, Heidelberg. Pictured, James Taylor, right, presents certificate of ordination to Smith, left.



Jason Culpepper is pictured receiving an award for seven years of perfect attendance in the children's choir program of State Boulevard Church, Meridian. T. R. Darsey, minister of music, is also pictured.



South 28th Avenue Church, Hayesville, ordained Randall Carte and James Sherman as deacons, May 27. A reception followed the service. Pictured, left to right, are Carte, Ryan F. Whitley, pastor, and Sherman.

Baptist Record

291 BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUITE 401
37203
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH
NASHVILLE
TENNESSEE

June 21, 1990

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205